

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, February 12, 2007

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Al Low

Kurt Schatz, Chair Juliette Lopez-Recinos

Alice Lavigne, Vice Chair L. Kevin McDonald

Dave Marcotte

Absent: -----

Excused: Al Gerew

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chairperson, at the Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, R.I.

Minutes of January 8, 2007 Regular Meeting were accepted. Motion to accept made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence:

Kurt Schatz reported the receipt of the appointment of new Recreation Commission member L. Kevin McDonald and his own

reappointment to the Recreation Commission.

The Director reported the receipt of a letter from the Burrillville Little League President recapping the communication shared at the December 11, 2006 meeting noting their willingness to assist with the maintenance of the softball fields at Hauser including the Parks and Recreation Department supplying the infield mix and they would do the installation. Al Low commented that the league is still very interested in placing batting cages at Hauser Field. Dave Marcotte stated this was approved with the stipulation that the post sleeves would have to recess below ground level for easy access. The existing building at Hauser will also be made available for storage for the league. The Director stated the Town Council would be advised of any necessary information, including any necessary licensing, for a proposed snack bar by the league.

The Director reported receipt of two letters. One from the New England Regional Awards Committee Chair nominating her for the Joseph Tropasso New England Programmers Award and a letter from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for her nomination for the 2007 John Chaffee Award.

The Director thanked the Recreation Commission for all their support and shares these nominations with them.

Good & Welfare:

The Director reported the Bylaws have not been updated since 1999 and the Recreation Commission might want to consider reviewing them for any necessary changes.

As a member of the Burrillville Extended Care Board of Directors, Recreation Commission member Juliette Lopez-Recinos wanted to make the commission aware of the school department looking at the Burrillville Extended Care Steere Farm site for other possible usage. The Director reported a meeting with the Superintendent has been scheduled to introduce the Co-Directors, Lisa Nault and Kelly Cournoyer, and to review the history of the program and different funding that has been received for the Burrillville Extended Care Steere Farm site for the playground equipment etc. as a collaboration between the school and the extended care. The Director will also review with the Superintendent the relocation of the Family Fair to the indoors at the Burrillville Middle School from the A.T. Levy School due to road construction.

Alice Lavigne has supplied a get well card to be sent to Al Gerew from the Recreation Commission members.

Special Guest: -----

Old Business:

Branch River Track

The lines will be completed this March due to some confusion with the lining company and the Department of Public Works.

Field Use Fees

The Director and the Town Manager met with Pascoag Utility District Manager, Ted Garille, regarding the usage fees of over \$1,400 per month for the lights at Hauser field. It has been found that when the lights were utilized by Men's Softball without permission in October, the electric peaked causing the bill to again be \$1,400 per month for another year. Signage has been placed on the utility room at Hauser stating "High Voltage-Keep Out". The Director questioned a possible solution of a "seasonal rate ". She had spoken with National Grid who stated this might be a possibility, since that is who Pascoag Utility purchases their power from. David Marcotte stated that night games were held as makeup rain dates for Sundays. The locks have since been changed for the utility building with keys to be signed out.

A possibility is for a Pascoag Electric qualified on-call person to be hired to turn the lights on and off for a field use fee to whomever is utilizing the lights. It might be required for the lights to not be utilized for one year until this has been settled.

Rules and regulations regarding any alcohol consumption at the

fields to be put forward by the Recreation Commission regarding fines instituted through the Ordinance Subcommittee. The Director will get a copy of the existing ordinance regarding alcohol consumption at town properties.

C.I.P. & Operating Budget-Recreation, BEC, Spring Lake Beach

The Director reviewed her meeting with the Budget Board stating it did not go well at all. The Budget Board questioned why funding for a Director's vehicle could not be purchased from Spring Lake Beach or Burrillville Extended Care funds versus C.I.P. funds. The Director questioned other Directors at a recent Rhode Island Recreation and Parks Association meeting if they have to supply their own vehicle. They all have their own city/town vehicles. David Marcotte questioned what town departments have vehicles. L. Kevin McDonald stated that it was investigated by the Budget Board what departments are in need of town vehicles. A vehicle could be purchased by the town or additional funds could be added to the Director's contract to compensate for a vehicle. It was recommended that any surplus funds should be designated as "matching funds" when reporting information for Burrillville Extended Care and Spring Lake Beach to reiterate any surplus funds are to revolve back to these programs according to town ordinance.

The Recreation Commission will send a letter of support to the Budget Board regarding the budget requests for the department.

The Director questioned why monies funded from B.O.S.A.P. for Parks and Recreation programs, such as coaches training, junior police academy and senior fitness, couldn't come directly to the Parks & Recreation Department from the town appropriations. As the liaison to B.O.S.A.P., the Director voiced her concern regarding the change in main focus of the B.O.S.A. P. program to health and wellness versus substance abuse prevention to include a name change of the organization.

Freedom Park Gate

The gate has been installed by the Department of Public Works.

Boys & Girls Club

The surveys sent out to local youth requesting their ideas on a Boys & Girls Club have been received by the Planning Department but not compiled as of yet.

Rhode Island Recreation & Park Association

The Burrillville Parks & Recreation Department hosted the monthly Rhode Island Recreation and Parks Association meeting in their new conference room.

Shippee Bridge

The Director will meet with the Town Manager regarding an article that he had placed in the Neighbors Newspaper looking for volunteers to assist with the new park project. The Director had already been working with a local Eagle Scout preparing a design and Kevin Blais had offered to do the excavation at no cost with grant monies for the benches, gravel, etc. The Town Manager suggested a patio type area as part of the design plan. David Marcotte questioned if the State of Rhode Island would have to be contacted regarding the change of scope of the project since they deeded us the land under certain stipulations.

League Budgets

Budget submissions by Junior Hockey and Basketball still have not been received to date. Figure Skating, Baseball and Girls Softball have been received.

Shippie Bridge

As part of the department's goals and objectives for this spring is the Shippie Bridge park project. Boy Scout Jeff Bowser will be assisting the department with project including picnic tables, benches, and

plantings. Department of Environmental Management should not have any issues because the grading and plantings are far enough away from the water.

League Budgets-Figure Skating

Budget letters to the leagues have recently been sent. The amount allocated to Figure Skating has not changed to date. Commission members stated the formula should be utilized to keep funding calculations at the same level for all leagues for the upcoming budget.

January programming calendars were distributed to the commission members.

Al Low questioned if a replacement NYSCA tape for baseball was received for the upcoming spring training. The Director stated the replacement tape has been received. Kevin Fox stated he did not have any new coaches needing training for the winter basketball program but the BCI checks were completed. Coach listings including certification information will again be requested from the leagues.

NYSCA training for Baseball and Girls Softball has been scheduled. Basketball stated that did not have any new coaches but they will be contacted on the upcoming training on March 22, 2007.

New Business:

Summer Concerts

The state block booking took place with the scheduled concerts and flyers at the next commission meeting. Donation request letters have been sent.

Egg Hunt

This year the Egg Hunt will sponsor the Egg Hunt scheduled for 3/31/07 (rain date 4/7/07).

Safe Sitter

The biannual babysitting training program by the Hasbro Children's Hospital will take place during February vacation on February 20th at the Burrillville Middle School. The classes are always filled to capacity.

Family Fair Meetings

An invitation was extended to the commission for the first Family Fair organizational meeting is scheduled at the Parks & Recreation Offices on February 13, 2007 at 8:45 a.m. Registration forms and flyers demonstrating this year's theme of "Support the Troops" were shared with the commission.

Keep the Blackstone Valley Beautiful

Date for Earth Day is April 21st. The local program occurs during the national “Great American Clean-up”. The Director plans to implement the disposable ashtrays program at Spring Lake Beach.

Recreation Programs

New Ceramic Classes will take place after school at Steere Farm Elementary to start with possible classes at other schools in the future. Another instructor has contacted the department to possibly offer new Ballroom Dance classes in the near future. The Director recommended charging a program fee for classes held at other locations other than the recreation center to cover the costs of advertising and administrative fees.

Frost Ice

The Director reviewed information from a Parks and Recreation Magazine regarding Frost Ice. This ice skating program is to teach children 10 and under separating the rink into three separate areas for recreational skating training.

The Director stated Al Gerew still had a porta-john that can be utilized at Spring Lake Beach Campground and we would pay \$25 per cleaning instead of a rental fee. An updated Recreation Commission

member list was distributed to the commission. The February Recreation Calendars and the Field Use Calendars were distributed to the commission.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by Al Low. Seconded by David Marcotte. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Motion Passed 5-0.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 12, 2007 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI.

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